DEWAN : നിങ്ങൾ പറയുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള സന്ദർഭം വരുമെന്ന എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത് അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു ഇൻവെസ്റ്റിഗേഷൻ (investigation) നടത്തിയല്ലാതെ പറയത്തക്ക ഒരു സംഗതിയല്ല എന്നാണ്.

[In regard to the Provident Fund, it requires investigation. For higher appointments, efficiency and not seniority alone is taken into account. In due time the lowest pay in Government service will be Rs. 12 per mensem. Just now, enhancements of salaries are limited by financial considerations.]

184. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kunnatnad taluk, Group I*) said that various representations had been made in the Assembly from time to time strongly urging the need for bringing about changes in its constitution, function and powers. But it still remained as a body of petitioners. In the early years of its existence, any subject whatsoever could be discussed in the Assembly and the Government were ready to carry out the suggestions made therein. But it had all changed. In the existing condition of the institution, members could represent only two subjects. It was regrettable that the representatives of the people were not allowed to carry on reasonable discussions on administrative questions. In Mysore, such privileges were conferred on the members of the Assembly and it was found to be of great advantage to the people and to the Government. The representative Assembly of that State had in certain respects greater powers than the Legislative Council. It was necessary to reform the Assembly in Travancore. A considerable section of the people were against its continuance in its existing condition.

The members of the Committee appointed for suggesting changes in the functions and powers of the Assembly tendered resignation of their places as they found that the Government did not contemplate a radical reform of the institution.

A committee consisting of constitutional lawyers should define the powers of the institution. The Assembly should have a voice in legislation and administration. The property qualification of voters should be reduced considerably. The institution should be given statutory recognition and should meet twice a year. Its members should be elected for a period of three years. The agenda of legislative work in the Legislative Council should previously be presented in the Assembly so that the latter might discuss the principles of the bills concerned. The members should have the right to record their decisions by the majority of votes and the Council should accept such decisions. The Assembly should be given the right to interpellate Government, to move resolutions on matters of public interest and to make general observations on the budget. So reformed, the Assembly would prove to be an invaluable aid to Government.